



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON  
BUILDING 237, B AVE, PO BOX 105021  
FORT IRWIN, CA 92310-5000

IMNT-ZA

10 August 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: United States Army Garrison, Fort Irwin Policy Letter #18, Drone and Remote Control Policy

1. References.

- a. DOD Instruction 2000.16, DoD Antiterrorism (AT) Standards, 8 December 2006 (change 2)
- b. AR 190-13, The Army Physical Security Program, 25 February 2011
- c. Army Regulation 525-13, Antiterrorism, 4 January 2011
- d. Army Field Manual 3-37.2, Antiterrorism, February 2011

2. Purpose. This policy establishes the instructions, standards, guidance and general information to gain authorization/operate RCD aircraft systems within USAG Fort Irwin.

3. Scope. This policy governs all unmanned aircraft that can achieve sustained flight, to include, but not limited to remote control (RC) aircraft.

4. Applicability. This policy is applicable to all military, civilians, contractors and family members residing or granted access to Fort Irwin. U.S. Army owned drones and remote control aircraft are exempt from this policy letter and will fly IAW guidelines as set forth by their chain of command and mission requirements.

5. General Information.

a. RC aircraft are commonly used by model aircraft enthusiasts for recreational purposes; however, they are increasingly being used for professional applications such as surveillance, data-gathering and for criminal purposes. By law, RC aircraft operation are restricted on and around military installations due to the possibility of either signal interference (causing a loss of aircraft control) or physical interference with the flight path of actual aircraft on training missions. These activities threaten operational security and endanger the safety of military aircraft on Fort Irwin. The damage or loss of a military aircraft as a result of irresponsible RC or drone activity could endanger the lives of our pilots or cause millions of dollars in damages and therefore this policy is designed to govern the use of these recreational aircraft.

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b. Operating RC aircraft outdoors on Fort Irwin is prohibited except in areas designated by the Garrison Commander (GC) where RC aircraft can be flown without diminishing operational security.

c. Designated Flight Area. For public safety and mission accomplishment reasons, the outdoor use of RC aircraft is restricted to the designated flight area shown in Figures 1 and 2. This area is near the bunkers and west of the horse stables and between Fort Irwin Rd, Barstow Rd and Outer Loop and Cracker Jack Flats.

d. Potential Disruption of normal GPS signal. During many rotations, electronic software has been used that could cause interference with GPS signals as part of the rotational scenario. As such, RC aircraft owners do not know when signal disruption of GPS signal may occur. It is therefore, recommended not to fly during rotation to avoid the chances of disruption of your aircraft. In most cases, though, based on the designated flight areas, disruption is unlikely though not impossible. All risk is assumed by the operator if flying RC aircraft during scheduled rotations.

**FIGURE 1 and 2: DESIGNATED FLIGHT AREAS**



**Area #1:** [This is the area by the old ASP adjacent to Goldstone Rd and Old Blacky Mtn in the vicinity of the RV Park and 11 ACR Horse Stables (flight must not disturb RV Park tenants or horses at the stables)].

**or**



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**Area #2:** [This is the area between Fort Irwin Rd and Barstow Rd and Outer Loop and CrackerJack Flats in the vicinity of the Cactus Corner CDC (flight must not disturb Bitter Springs and CrackerJack Flats tenants or children at the CDC nor can flight over the Clark construction and clean fill yard be permitted.)].

#### 6. Summary of Requirements.

a. This policy ensures that the RC aircraft meet the specifications prescribed in the following sections.

b. Register RC aircraft with the proper civilian authorities (if required by RC aircraft size).

c. Operate RC aircraft only within the designated flight area as shown in Figures 1 and 2 above.

d. Adhere to the safety guidance published with the RC aircraft manufacturer instruction manual and in this policy.

e. Operating RC aircraft is at the owner's risk to include losing signal due to loss of line of sight or GPS signal during rotations.

#### 7. Operating Procedures and Guidance.

a. General Flight Rules: RC aircraft **will not** be flown:

(1) In a careless or reckless manner.

(2) At any other location than the designated flight area show in Figures 1 and 2 above.

(3) Between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

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(4) Without assigned registration number affixed to the outside of the RC aircraft (if required by state or federal regulations or laws).

(5) With a turbine-powered model aircraft or any aircraft requiring liquid fuel or any aircraft requiring liquid fuel or glow plugs for engine operations.

(6) With metal blade propellers or with gaseous boosters.

(7) With RC aircraft that weigh over 10 pounds. RC aircraft that are larger than 10 pounds will be restricted from flight on Fort Irwin and are recommended for use with off post clubs.

(8) Carrying pyrotechnic devices that explode/burn or any device that propels a projectile or drops any object that creates a hazard to persons or property.

b. RC Aircraft Operators will:

(1) RC Operators flying within the designated authorized areas will call Range Control [760-380-3678/3637] to report their plan to fly an RC aircraft or drone within one of the two designated areas and will report when complete.

(2) Avoid military and civil aircraft.

(3) Use a spotter, when conducting complicated maneuvers or as appropriate.

(4) Request written permission through the unit chain of command to the Garrison Commander to operate a RC aircraft outside the designated areas and/or to fly higher than 200 feet AGL. Requests must be submitted ten (10) working days prior to the planned flight(s).

(5) Be solely responsible for their actions and actions of their dependents.

(6) Be responsible for any damage, injuries or other type of mishaps that occur.

(7) Be age 16 or older to operate a RC aircraft or model rocket without the presence of a parent, legal guardian or other responsible adult.

(8) Not operate a RC aircraft or model rocket under the influence of alcohol or any other drug that may have an adverse impact on the operator's ability to safely operate a RC aircraft or model rocket.

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8. Safety Guidance and Enforcement.

- a. Operators will never fly or launch their RC aircraft in a negligent or reckless manner that endangers other personnel, property or aircraft.
- b. Operators will remain a safe distance from the general public so that any failure of the RC aircraft will not be a hazard to people on the ground.
- c. Children under the age of 16 are prohibited from operating a RC aircraft without a parent, legal guardian or other responsible adult being present.
- d. RC aircraft flights are not permitted in conjunction with other community activities or events outside the designated approved flight areas unless specifically approved by the Garrison Commander.
- e. Upon the notice or witness of a violation of this policy, immediately contact the Military Police at (760) 380-2707 for response to the violation.
- f. Military Police are responsible for enforcing the procedures outlined in the policy and will take appropriate action in detaining the operator and temporarily confiscating the RC aircraft or model rocket. Violations will then be reported to the Garrison Commander and the sponsoring chain of command, and, where appropriate, warnings may be given or disciplinary action may be taken.

9. Points of Contact:

- a. The point of contact for this policy will be the Director of Emergency Services at (760) 380-1258, DSN 470-1258.

  
G. SCOTT TAYLOR  
COL, AR  
Commanding

